

ANS Correspondence

Campbell, William, Prof.  
[School of Mines, Columbia University]

1931-1932

January 2, 1931

Professor William Campbell  
School of Mines  
Columbia University, New York

Dear Professor Campbell:

A recent article on plating in the current (1930) number of the Numismatische Zeitschrift, pages 3 and 4, offers the results of some experimentation by a practising jeweller of Vienna, in an article which he calls "Zur antiken Münztechnik". One section is devoted to the plated coins. I sent a translation of it to Dr. Robinson, and if you care to have it, we can send the original (in German) to you. I doubt that there will be very much help for you or Dr. Robinson in what is recorded here, but of course, you will want to know about it. If you plan to come here in the near future you may prefer to wait until then before looking up the article. There would be no difficulty in our sending you the magazine if the alternative prevails.

May I express the hope that you are feeling better and that the New Year will be a happy one for you.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary.

WILLIAM CAMPBELL  
39 CLAREMONT AVENUE  
NEW YORK CITY

Feb 5-1931

Dear Dr. Robinson,

This afternoon I sent you the work on the Silver plated Coins. After you have looked it over will you please write a preface or introduction stating why the work is important from the viewpoint of the Nummatist.

I understand that at the May meeting of the British Institute of Metals there will be a paper on the structure of some old Greek Silver Coins with some counterfeits. Hence I think it would be wise to get Mr. Newell to publish some of this work as soon as possible. I would like to submit an abstract to the American Institute of Mining & Metallurgical Engineers as soon as possible - without waiting to perform the plating experiments I outlined when you were here.

I am anxious to know what you think of the work.

Yours sincerely  
Walt Campbell

February 17, 1931

Professor William Campbell  
School of Mines  
Columbia University, New York City

Dear Professor Campbell:

Since you were here I have been going over the manuscripts that you left with us, and when you come again I have a few modifications to suggest which I feel will meet with your approval.

I have received a letter from Dr. Robinson flatly declining to prepare an introduction such as you suggested that he write. In one sense it is much more desirable that a monograph such as this come out under the name of a single author than as the work of joint authors, and what you suggested to Dr. Robinson can be accomplished in the form of an editorial note or introduction in which I can express for you whatever credit you desire to give Dr. Robinson. If this suggestion meets with your approval you might telephone me and perhaps I can have it ready for you by the time you are able to come again.

regarding the captions for the illustrations, Mr. Wood contends that if we reduce your photographs we should reduce the statement as to enlargement (that is, X 60, etc.). I contend that this does not follow, because we are reducing a photograph of sixty enlargements which does not reduce the number of enlargements. Which of us is correct?

If you approve the suggestions I have to make I see no reason why we should not proceed to printing as soon as we submit the manuscript to the Publications Committee for its approval.

Awaiting your response,

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary.

P. 2. The coin is enclosed herewith.



Columbia University  
in the City of New York

March 31, 1931.

Dear Mr. Newell,

Here are the photographs of the Metapatum coin. The smallest is taken by vertical illumination while the two larger ones are by oblique light taken from opposite positions as regards the light. I am sorry that the "signature" does not show up more clearly, but unless the coin is taken flat I am unable to get it all in focus. However if these first attempts are not good enough for your purpose I'd like to make another try a little later on when I can spend what time is necessary, without the interruptions due to lectures etc.

Yours sincerely, Wm Campbell

April 13, 1931

Professor William Campbell  
Columbia University  
New York City

Dear Professor Campbell:

Your note to Mr. Newell with the enlargement of his  
coin of Metopontum, has been handed to me. I am writing to thank  
you and to say that I think that one of these enlargements will do  
exceedingly well for the purpose we had in mind. We appreciate the  
trouble to which you have gone in photographing this piece.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary.

June 26, 1931.

Prof. Wm. Campbell  
School of Mines  
Columbia University  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

Without any desire to add to your burdens, may I ask whether you are able to give me any indication of how soon your revision of the monograph on "Plated Coins" will be completed. The question of preparing the plates is one reason for my exigency. During the hot weather the gelatine process does not function to the best advantage, but altogether aside from this I should like to see your article in print with as little delay as possible.

Very truly yours,

SN:JC

Secretary



Columbia University  
in the City of New York

June 29, 1931.

Dear Mr. Noe:

Replying to your recent letter, I have not been idle. In the first place, I have been making a microscopic examination and comparison of copper and silver joined by a layer of solder and a similar junction without the use of solder, in other words, reproducing the old Sheffield plate method. From this work, it seems evident that the coins examined, or most of them, have been joined without the use of solder. I am busy examining another series that Dr. Robinson sent me which needs further description to identify them.

I have spent some time trying to arrange illustrations of the paper so as to fit the small size of your publication. I have had no success, and I think it would be much better to pick out a few typical micrographs and publish these, instead of trying to reduce the others. This work, of course, needs a large page for reproduction. However, I have photographed a number of these plated coins to show up the holes in the plating, and I believe that when I show these to you you will decide that they are worth publishing.

In the next few days I hope to get up to see you and show you just exactly what I have done.

Yours sincerely,

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Wm. Campbell.

WC:Z

July 6, 1931.

Prof. William Campbell  
Columbia University  
School of Mines  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Professor Campbell:

Your letter of June 29th is at hand and I shall be glad to see you whenever you can come. I note what you say regarding the size of illustrations dictated by our monograph, but if it isn't possible to get more than one on a page, we believe that the material you <sup>is</sup> have is of sufficient importance to devote an entire page to a single illustration. This would enable us to put the captions at the foot of the page and by reducing the number of coins under consideration from twelve to eight or ten, we could perhaps eliminate some duplication and still have a representative selection showing the phases of plating in many forms. Today I talked with Mr. Newell in regard to this matter and he is quite in accord with what I have endeavored to express above - that is, that we want to have justice done to the facts which your photographs record.

Very cordially yours,

SN:JC

August 1, 1931.

Prof. William Campbell  
Columbia University  
School of Mines  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Prof. Campbell:

Mr. Wood has just told me of your telephone talk with him. I hope with the change in the weather you will have improved - most of us felt the effects of the temperature.

I am writing to ask if the article of which you spoke, on a previous visit, was, "An Investigation of the Microstructures of Fifteen Silver Greek Coins (500-300 B. C.) and Some Forgeries" by C. F. Elam, Reprinted from the "Journal of the Institute of Metals," Vol. XLV, No. 1, 1931. I now have an "off-print" of this article and if you have not seen it or care to have it mailed to you, I shall be very glad to do this. Fortunately it does not parallel your work, although it does make me realize the wisdom of your desire that we get it into print as promptly as may be.

Very sincerely yours,

SN:JG

September 12, 1931.

Prof. William Campbell  
School of Mines  
Columbia University  
New York City.

Dear Prof. Campbell:

Thank you for the volume on  
Japanese Coins which you presented when you were  
here yesterday. I am sorry to have missed seeing  
you.

You will be interested to learn  
that we have located the pieces you desired to have  
Mr. Lowell's description of and I hope that we can  
put this in your hands in the near future.

Very truly yours,

SM:JC

Secretary

November 16, 1931.

Prof. William Campbell  
School of Mines  
Columbia University  
New York City.

Dear Prof. Campbell:

We have not heard from you in so long that I hope this is not an indication that you have not been in good health. I recently rec'd. a letter from Dr. Doherty stating that he expected to be here the end of this month and asking how soon you wanted him to go. It was going to be dictated. Are you any nearer being able to turn over your material to us? Please forgive me if I am too exigent but there is to be a meeting of our publication committee pretty soon and I should like to ask them to work this out to give you enough time to do so. If it would be simpler for you to send by telephone, I expect to be here all this week except Wednesday.

Very truly yours,

SN:JC

Secretary

December 1, 1931.

Prof. William Campbell  
School of Mines  
Columbia University  
New York City.

Dear Prof. Campbell:

Since you were here, I have been carefully going over your manuscript and photographs and the next time you are here I hope to be in a position to lay before you a plan which I hope will meet with your approval. This will involve devoting a single page of our monograph to each of the photographs you have - a condition which will do away with any need for reduction, although it may involve a slight cutting down of certain of the photographs. Under each of these page illustrations, I should like to print the comment which you have in your text with reference to the illustration. The enlargements at the beginning could be handled in a folding plate - possibly they might be combined on a single folding plate.

With respect to the question of order which you raised when you were here, I understand Mr. Lowell told you that in his opinion it would not be necessary to go further than to separate the Roman from the Greek coins. Of course, it would be possible to put them in geographical or chronological order within these subdivisions but inasmuch as the material you present lays no weight on these considerations I do not feel that there would be any great advantage in rearranging the material as you have it and I would even go further and say that it seems to me there is no strong reason for even separating the Roman from the Greek coins. There is the further reason for not making this separation, that your piece enlarged for the folding plate is a Roman piece and since this is treated in greater detail than any of the others it seems illogical to transfer the treatment of this piece to the middle of the book. My own feeling, therefore, would be to leave things as you have them so far as their relative order is concerned.

With regard to the supplementary coins (three from our Society and the remainder belonging to Dr. Robinson), we have received word from Dr. Robinson that he is giving you permission to make the edge tests of pieces you desire. Do I understand that you intend to have further illustrations of these edge tests? If this is your intention, it may necessitate a slight

Prof. Campbell - 2

December 1, 1931.

arrangement of the photographs of the pieces involved, but, this could be effected without difficulty, I think, especially if the commentary on these monetary coins could be given in the text rather than beneath them as would be done with the microscopic enlargements of Part I. One important consideration, however, is whether the weights of these pieces recorded before the above tests are true. Will you be so good either to see that this is done or that the coins are brought up to us for weighing before the tests are made?

I am sending this rather sketchy outline of my conclusions in order that you may have a chance to think them over. If there are any objections which have been overlooked by me, please do not hesitate to call them to my attention.

Very truly yours,

M:JC

Secretary

February 19, 1932.

Prof. William Campbell  
School of Mines  
Columbia University  
New York City.

Dear Prof. Campbell:

Did we loan you a copy of the Numismatische Zeitschrift for 1930? The first article has to do with plated coins and I believe I showed it to you when you were here and agreed to let you borrow it for your researches.

I hope the winter has treated you kindly. With best regards,

Very sincerely yours,

SN:JC

Secretary

August 15, 1932.

Prof. William Campbell  
School of Mines  
Columbia University  
New York City.

Dear Prof. Campbell:

On Friday last I called you but without reaching you and it seems simpler to write today rather than to try to telephone because if you are out of the city you can respond on your return. If this reaches your hands tomorrow, Tuesday, I shall be here all day but on Wednesday I expect to be absent. I should like to go over certain of the details of your manuscript before taking these details up with the printer. I think I have it pretty well in hand but I do want to have your reactions to certain of my suggestions.

If you have the untouched halves of the first lot of pieces that were examined will you please have them where I can look at them when it is convenient for you to have me come.

Very sincerely yours,

SN:JC

Secretary

August 26, 1932.

Prof. William Campbell  
School of Mines Columbia University  
New York City.

Dear Prof. Campbell:

My chief occupation the past week has been trying to fit the materials in your treatise into the form of our monographs. I believe I shall ultimately be able to overcome the difficulties, but some time must elapse before I am in a position to submit the re-vamped material for your approval. In the meantime will you let me know, at your convenience, whether the negatives from which the plates furnished me were taken are available. If they can be used in the photo-gelatine process I described to you it will materially lessen the cost of publication. I shall not need them for some time of course. What I am asking now is merely whether they are available. A telephone response is all that is necessary, if it is simpler for you to use that form.

If it would at all simplify matters for you to have us send for the specimen mounted in fusible metal and the other coin halves in your possession please do not hesitate to say so. Incidentally I noticed this morning that the coins numbered 21 and 22 in your list are here. Apparently they were returned by you some time ago. I mention this to save your hunting for them.

I hope you are feeling better. I even go a step further to hope that you have gotten away and that this will not reach your hands for a fortnight. Please be assured that there is no special urgency in your responding.

Very truly yours,

EDWARD T. NEWELL  
PRESIDENT

SYDNEY P. NOE  
SECRETARY

CABLE ADDRESS:  
"NUMISHA" NEW YORK



HARROLD E. GILLINGHAM  
TREASURER

HOWLAND WOOD  
CURATOR

TELEPHONE:  
AUDUBON 3-4141

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY  
BROADWAY BETWEEN 155TH  
AND 156TH STREETS  
NEW YORK

September 21, 1932.

Prof. William Campbell  
School of Mines  
Columbia University  
New York City.

Dear Prof. Campbell:

I am enclosing the result of a demonstration I asked the Photo Gelatine Company to make for me. You will see that the text is not concerned with the illustration used, the purpose being merely to show the effect of reproducing the printed text in connection with the illustration. They would of course be drawn together on the page so that they would be much nearer than they are shown. It seemed to me that you might be interested in seeing this. I hope you are feeling better.

Very cordially yours,

Sydney P. Noe

Secretary

SN:JG

Dear Mr. Noe.

The reproduction enclosed looks splendid especially the type. It seems to me however that the micrograph itself isn't sharply in focus all over. part seems blurred & I don't think it is that was in the original.

Regards

Very sincerely  
Wm. Campbell

September 21, 1932.

Prof. William Campbell  
School of Mines  
Columbia University  
New York City.

Dear Prof. Campbell:

I am enclosing the result of a demonstration I asked the Photo Gelatine Company to make for me. You will see that the text is not concerned with the illustration used, the purpose being merely to show the effect of reproducing the printed text in connection with the illustration. They would of course be drawn together on the page so that they would be much nearer than they are shown. It seemed to me that you might be interested in seeing this. I hope you are feeling better.

Very cordially yours,

SN:JG

Secretary